

Response received from Committee Chair by email Tuesday 16 March 20:44

Dear Ms Dixon

I thank you for your letter of 16 March 2021 regarding my invitation for your attendance to a Shadows' meeting with the LIBE shadow rapporteurs for the Resolutions of the LIBE Committee on the Schrems II and on the GDPR Resolutions that I sent to you on 15 March 2021.

I would like to reassure you that all the correspondence you have addressed to the LIBE Committee, and to me personally as Chair, has been duly and promptly shared with the Shadow rapporteurs of the so called GDPR Resolution (2021/2717/RSP) and the Schrems II Resolution (2021/2789/RSP) as per your specific request. I instructed the secretariat of the LIBE Committee to share your correspondence with all the Shadows as a matter of transparency and to ensure the expeditious handling of your request to meet the LIBE Members and present your views.

Your request to be heard has been discussed at length by the Political Groups' representatives for the two Resolutions in several meetings at technical level. Furthermore, it was also the subject of Shadow Rapporteurs meeting organised in the context of the negotiations of the GDPR resolution. However, the Shadow Rapporteurs responsible for the GDPR resolution eventually decided to grant your request to be heard in the context of the works carried out for the Schrems II Resolution, which they found to be the appropriate forum. They have also considered it necessary to hear Mr Schrems and the EDPB at the same time. For this reason, the invitation has been extended to all of you to meet with the Shadow Rapporteurs next Thursday 18 March. The Shadow Rapporteurs are of the view that your testimonies will be valuable in the preparation of the final compromises that will be voted by the LIBE Committee. The format of the meeting (panel with different speakers) is commonly followed by Parliamentary Committees or their working bodies (Shadows' meeting format).

Let me stress that when preparing a file for a vote by a Committee of the European Parliament, it is the prerogative of the Members responsible for the file, the Rapporteur along with the Shadow Rapporteurs, to decide how to organise their works, the timeline and the external organisations, persons or bodies that they wish to hear from in conjunction, in order to get clarity over the issues at stake. In doing so, the Parliament acts in a fully independent manner, whilst conducting its Parliamentary role.

As Chair of the LIBE Committee, it is my duty to maintain a neutral position at all times, without exception. The Shadow Rapporteurs on any files are free to present their ideas and suggestions on a given topic, which ought to be carefully considered and discussed in order to reach consensus amongst all political groups on the final decision. Rest assured this meeting is no exception. The format of this event has been decided in a consensual manner among the representatives of the political groups of the LIBE Committee.

It is necessary to clarify that the purpose of the meeting is not to have a direct exchange among the speakers but to hear a statement from each party individually and give the Shadow Rapporteurs the opportunity to ask questions directly to the speakers.

As to the order of intervention, it should be noted that the main determining factor to organise this event were your subsequent letters. Hence, the Shadow Rapporteurs found it pertinent to hear your office first on the serious matters you conveyed and ask any further questions or clarification they may have.

I therefore reiterate my invitation to you to appear to this shadows' meeting on 18 March, as per the invitation transmitted to you and I look forward for your kind reply.

Best regards,



Juan Fernando López Aguilar, MEP

Chairman of the LIBE Committee

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